In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 5 and amend claims 1-4 and 6-12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing telephony services through the Internet, the method comprising steps of:

~~by a host connected to a phone line, providing access to the phone line through the internet;~~

by a server available through the Internet, communicating with ~~the host~~ a plurality of hosts, each host being connected to a local phone service via a local phone line and to the server via the Internet, ~~and with~~the server communicating with clients through the Internet to provide clients access to local phone services ~~via the phone line~~and communications through the local phone lines of the plurality of hosts.

2. (Currently Amended) A server computer accessible through the Internet, the server computer being configured to provide access control to a remote client that accesses phone services and a plurality of phone lines through a plurality of host computers to provide the remote client via the Internet with local phone services and communications through the plurality of phone lines available ~~at the host computer~~through the plurality of host computers.

3. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2, wherein the server computer is configured to provide one or more of the following services: authentication, tunneling, initiation of peer-to-peer communication, routing, directory, directory search, and access rights.

4. (Currently Amended) A host computer having access to a local phone ~~service~~line that connects to a local phone service and an Internet connection, the host computer being configured to provide Internet server-enabled access to the local phone line and service via a server that controls access to the host computer and to a plurality of other hosts computers by communication through the local phone line via an internet connection by permitting a client to utilize the local phone service through the local phone line.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The host of claim 4, wherein a server controls client access to the host.

7. (Previously Presented) The host of claim 6, wherein the server is configured to provide one or more of the following services: directory search, voicemail and missed calls, call answering, and call initiation.

8. (Currently Amended) A client device enabled to access a <u>plurality of</u> local phone service<u>s</u> of a <u>plurality of</u> host computer<u>s connected to the plurality of local phone services via a plurality of local phone lines, the client accessing the plurality of local phone services and phone lines of the plurality of host computers</u> through an Internet connection controlled by a server computer, the client device having functions for requesting access to the local phone service, and for performing communications through an established connection <u>with the local phone services via the local phone lines</u>.

9. (Previously Presented) The client of claim 8, wherein the client device is configured to provide one or more of the following services: phone line interface, authentication, verification, call forwarding, call answering, voice mail and missed calls, and local-call routing.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for providing phone services to Internet users through the Internet, the system comprising:

one or more a plurality of host computers, each host computer having access to a local phone service <u>through a local phone line</u>; and

at least one server that controls access between said ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> host computers and phone service clients seeking to access <u>local</u> phone

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services through the local phone lines of the plurality of host computers through the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) A business method, the method comprising charging clients for access through a computer server to a system comprising ~~one or more~~ a plurality of host computers and enabling client computers to access via the Internet the system comprising a plurality of host computers through the computer server, each of the plurality of host computers having access to a local phone service through a local phone line; ~~and at least one~~the computer server ~~that controls access between said one or more~~controlling client computer access to the plurality of local phone services through the local phone lines; ~~host computers and phone service clients seeking to access phone services through the Internet;~~ and permitting the access ~~via client devices~~by a client computer upon verification of access rights of the client computer.

12. (Currently Amended) A business method, the method comprising providing virtual local phone service for a fee by providing a simulation of local phone service and voice communications to remote client devices that access a computer server through the Internet, the computer server providing the simulation of local phone service ~~via a plurality~~ by controlling access to a plurality of host computers connected to local phone services by a plurality of local phone lines.